

REMARKS

Claims 2-8 and 10-19 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 2-8 and 10-19 are rejected. Claims 2-8 and 10-18 are canceled. Claim 19 is amended. New claims 20-32 are added and replace canceled claims 2, 3, 6-8 and 10-18 including corrections to typographical errors to overcome the informal objections. Claims 19-32 remain.

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the drawings do not comply with 37 CFR §1.84. Applicant submits replacement sheets to comply with 37 CFR §1.84. The amendments are supported in the original specification. No new matter is added. Approval is respectfully requested.

II. Specification Objections

It is asserted in the Office Action that the specification is objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicant has amended the specification to overcome the specification objection. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the specification objection is respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. §112

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 2-8 and 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled claims 2-8 and 10-18 and has amended the specification and drawings to clarify the claimed subject matter and to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections of claims 2-8 and 10-19 are respectfully requested.

IV. 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

A. It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 2-4, 7, 8 and 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,765,771 issued to Yamaguchi et al. ("Yamaguchi"). Applicant has cancelled claims 2-4, 7, 8 and 10-18. Applicant respectfully traverses the aforementioned rejections regarding amended claim 19 and new claims 20-35 for the following reasons.

It is asserted in the Office Action that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections. Applicant has added the limitations of cancelled claims 4 and 5 to claim 19. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 19 is now allowable. Additionally, the claims that directly or indirectly depend on amended claim 19, namely claims 20-32, are also allowable for the same reason.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 2-4, 7, 8 and 10-19 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely 19-32, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorised in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.


PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Per 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and in connection with the Office Action mailed on August 1, 2006, Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for a two (2) month extension of time, extending the period for response to January 1, 2007. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 in the amount of \$450.00.00 to cover the petition filing fee for a 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(2) large entity. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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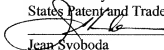
Dated: December 13, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.


Jean Svoboda

Date: December 13, 2006